

Message Text

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17

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03

NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 FEA-02 INT-08

NIC-01 DRC-01 /148 W

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R 051100Z JUL 74

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2749

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB AO

SUBJECT: LABOR CHAOS THREATENS MAJOR ANGOLAN EXPORT

1. BECAUSE OF THE CONTINUING STRIKE AFFECTING PORTUGUES SHIPPING, PLUS THE SLOWDOWN AMONG PORT WORKERS IN LUANDA (LUANDA 0467), PLUS WORKER DEMANDS AT LUANDA'S CEMENT FACTORY SECIL, LATTER IS SLOWLY DYING. TWO OF THREE KILNS HAVE BEEN TURNED OFF. MANAGER HAS ASKED PARENT FIRM IN COPENHAGEN TO AUTHORIZE CLOSING DOWN FACTORY ALTOGETHER.

2. BEFORE LABOR TROUBLES BEGAN SECIL WAS EXPORTING 1,000 TONS OF CEMENT DAILY, MOSTLY TO NIGERIA, BUT ALSO TO GABON, CONGO, ZAIRE, IVORY COAST, MADAGASCAR. ACCORDING TO LOCAL MANAGER, CONGOLESE MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND HIGH OFFICIAL OF GABONESE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY BOTH VISITED LUANDA "LAST WEEK" TO TRY TO GET CEMENT MOVING AGAIN. PROVINCIAL SECRETARY OF ECONOMY ALMEIDA PROMISED THAT GOVERNMENT WOULD SEE TO IT THAT LABOR PROBLEMS OVERCOME AND

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SHIPMENTS RESUMED, BUT SO FAR GOVERNMENT HAS FAILED TO FOLLOW UP.

SECIL MEANWHILE HAS RECEIVED CABLES FROM LIBREVILLE AND BRAZZAVILLE REPORTING CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY IN BOTH COUNTRIES THREATENED WITH COLLAPSE BECAUSE OF CUTOFF OF ANGOLAN SUPPLIES.

3. SO FAR PROBLEM HAS NOT HIT LOCAL PRESS. IRONIES IN SITUATION ARE (A) FACT THAT RESULTS OF "LIBERALIZATION" IN THIS PORTUGUESE COLONY ARE REPORTEDLY HAVING DIRECT NEGATIVE IMPACT ON INDEPENDENT AFRICAN ECONOMIES, ONE IN COUNTRY TRADITIONALLY IN FOREFRONT OF ANTI-PORTUGUESE RADICALS; AND (B) SECIL FOR YEARS HAS BEEN JUSTIFIABLY PROUD OF FACT IT LEADS ALL OTHER INDUSTRY HERE IN FARSIGHTED, MODERN ATTITUDES TOWARD ANGOLAN LABOR. SECIL HAD ASSUMED IT WOULD BE IMMUNE TO WAVE OF EXCESSIVE DEMANDS AND IN FACT HAD RAISED MINIMUM MONTHLY WAGE FOR LOWEST-PAID CATEGORY (E.G. FLOOR SWEEPERS) FROM EQUIVALENT OF \$104 TO \$128, HIGHEST IN ANGOLA. GIVEN SECIL'S IMPORTANCE TO ANGOLA'S ECONOMY WE ASSUME MANAGER'S REQUEST TO CLOSE FACTORY IS LAST-DITCH PLOY TO FORCE GOVERNMENT TO INTERVENE, WHICH PROBABLY WILL SUCCEED.
BRIGGS

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